

NATIONAL

Surprise of a lifetime at the Palace of Culture

By Maaz D. Shukayr
Special to the Jordan Times
THE HAND-ful of spectators who filled Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture to the brim Sunday had the surprise of their life.

It was the first time that a "festival" had been produced locally to give a bird's-eye view of Jordanian dabke (folk dance) and samer (a rural or bedouin evening entertainment of song and dance). The 90-minute stage production, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and Youth, presented *sahjehs*, *dabkes*, work songs and celebratory dances from Salt, Karak, Ma'an, Irbid, Ramtha and the Jordanian desert.

According to Mr. Haidar Mahmoud, the newly-appointed director of the Department of Culture and Arts, the first-of-its-kind festival "contributes towards the development of civic sense" among the young. It provides "a mirror depicting a past that has come down to us from our forefathers," he says.

Indeed, most of the songs and dances performed Sunday to a 3,000-strong audience, led by Her Majesty Queen Noor, represented the "true origins of folk art in Jordan, a country that historically and geographically lies in the heart of the Arab World," according to Mr. Fakhri Kwar, a Jordanian writer who is culture editor for the daily newspaper Al Ra'i.

Mr. Kwar made a video tape of the festival when it was broadcast by Jordan Television Monday night, and so far he has received "dozens of requests" for copies

from his friends.

Mr. Mahmoud says many of the songs and dances "represent the Arab World as a whole." They were the same songs and dances performed by the Nashama (brave ones) of Ma'an and Agaba when they went out towards the end of World War I to welcome the "vanguards of the Great Arab Revolt" of the late Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali. Mr. Mahmoud contends.

Sharif Hussein's forces include volunteers from all parts of the Arab World, who saw in the Hashemite uprising against the Ottoman Turks a hope for a better future for the Arabs.

Not all the songs and dances presented Sunday evening were familiar to the audience. "Take for example the Ma'an dabke," said Sa'ud Al Fayyad, a well-

known television and film-maker, who is currently working on a "grape festival" to be staged next August in Salt. "I had been familiar with *dabkes* and *samers* from Ramtha, Salt, Karak and many other parts of Jordan," he said.

"But I had not known that the *dabkes* of Ma'an were so original and simple, yet so artistically expressive of life in Jordan."

Mr. Fayyad claims that this is the first time that Jordanian *dabkes* have been performed "outside the influence of professional choreographers imported at one time or another" to help in staging Jordan's folk heritage. This is a reference to occasions when folk-dance trainers were recruited from Lebanon, Syria and even the United States, to come to Jordan to "develop" the country's *dabke*.



Bani Sakhr



Ramtha



Karak



MA'AN: The 'joufiah dabke' by the Ma'an Youth Centre, capitalises on fast rhythms to depict the camel's gait on the way from Ma'an to Jouf.



Agaba



Hweitat



Irbid

T.E. Lawrence as he was

Beginning on Saturday, Dec. 12, the Jordan Times will publish a serialised look at the life of T.E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia"), by the Jordanian historian Sulhman Mousa, in three parts. Mr. Mousa is the author of the authoritative history T.E. Lawrence: An Arab View.

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

RESTAURANTS & BARS

RESTAURANT CHINA
"The First & Best"
Chinese Restaurant
in Jordan
First Circle Jabal Amman
Near A "Nivah" Girls School
Open Daily
12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m. - Midnight
Tel. 38968
Take Home Service Available

Shepherd's Pub
Enjoy a cold glass of draught beer and a game of darts in a truly English Pub atmosphere at the Shepherd Hotel Pub.
Open 12 noon to 1 a.m.
Snacks & steaks served

COME OVER AT 9:00 PM
@ Enjoy the Sensational Atmosphere
El Pasha
DISCOTHEQUE
COUPLES ONLY
Amman's most experienced hotel
HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL

THE WHITING BAND
LA TERRASSE
Restaurant
The first one under German supervision
* Finest cuisine
* Rustical atmosphere
Open daily: 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight
For Res. Tel. 62831, Shmeisani

HOLIDAY INN AQABA
ANNOUNCES
THE BLUE LAGOON
Lounge, Bar, Pool & Restaurant
Regularly from 12:00 to 11:00 p.m.

MANDARIN
Chinese Restaurant
FULLY AIR CONDITIONED
AQABA
Amman road, beside Samir Amis Restaurant.
Tel. 4633

Philadelphia Hotel
THE NEWEST PHILADELPHIA HOTEL IN JORDAN
my place
SUPER DISCO
FOR RES. CALL 256
COUPLES ONLY

Mandaloun Restaurant
We Promise the Finest Cuisine to Suit every taste
5th Circle
Next to Orthodox Club
For Res: 43564

Hotel Jerusalem International Meleg
Fridays & Sundays Buffet Luncheon at **Al Yamouk Restaurant**
FOR RESERVATION TEL 65124 Amman Jordan

RESTAURANT TAIWANO TOURISMO
Opposite Akelah Maternity Hospital
3rd Circle J Amman Tel. 41083
Try our special "Flaming Pot" lounge during your next visit.
Take-away orders welcome.
Welcome and thank you

MANDARIN
Chinese Restaurant
FULLY AIR CONDITIONED
Wadi Saqra Road
East of New Traffic Bridge
Across From Holiday Inn
Tel. 61922
AMMAN

Philadelphia Rent-A-Car
ALL NEW CARS
FULLY INSURED
Philadelphia Hotel
Tel. 25194

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
Travel & Tourism
General Sales Agents for SAS - Scandinavian Airlines & Royal Air Lines
Tel: 37195, 22324-5, 6-7-8-9
Tlx: 21212, 21520, 21634
P.O. Box 7806, Amman

NATIONAL RENT-A-CAR
1981 MODELS AVAILABLE
TEL. 39197-8

Scandinavian Show Room
See the latest in Danish sitting room furniture, wall units and bedrooms at Scandinavian Showroom. We have a large selection of sitting rooms in luxurious Chintz material. Furniture available tax-free to those entitled!

ask for...
Supreme Quality
PENNZOIL
Safe Lubrication
Agents & Distributors:
JORDAN EXPRESS CO.
Tel. 62722-3, 38141, 22585
Tlx. 21635 P.O. Box 2148

ORIENT TRANSPORT
FOR YOUR AIRFREIGHT, SEAFREIGHT, OVERLAND TRANSPORT, PACKING & HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL CONTACT US FOR A QUOTATION.
TEL. AMMAN 84198-9-30
AQABA 2135
TLX. 21547 P.O. BOX 92649

On the occasion of Christmas and the New Year
AL ZUHOUR TOY STORES
Jabal Al Hussein, Amman, Khalil Ibn Al Waleed Street, at Sukeina School Circle
Offers a SPECIAL 10 PER CENT DISCOUNT on each purchase, and a free children's gift.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

